

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2678

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T BAGHDAD 0029

Z.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ

SUBJ: SHIFT IN GOI PROPAGANDA LINE ON USG

1. ON JAN 10, GOVT.-CONTROLLED BAGHDAD OBSERVER CARRIED AN ARTICLE ON MAJOR POLITICAL ALTERATIONS IN THE YEAR 1975. INCLUDED IN ARTICLE WAS A SECTION ENTITLED "CHANGE IN AMERICAN STRATEGY TOWARDS THE ARABS". IN BRIEF, ARTICLE ALLEGES THAT USG HAS DECIDED THAT EXCLUSIVE RELIANCE ON ISRAEL TO SERVE AMERICAN INTERESTS IN AREA IS INADEQUATE AND HAS THEREFORE SHIFTED TO A POLICY OF RELIANCE ON CERTAIN ARAB STATES AS WELL AS ISRAEL. USG IS THUS COMPELLED TO ADOPT A MORE NEUTRAL ATTITUDE BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES AND HAS COME TO REALIZE THAT ANY SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS THAT DOES NOT INCLUDE RECOGNITION OF PALESTINIAN ROLE AND PALESTINIAN RIGHTS IS AN ABORTIVE SOLUTION. THEREFORE WASHINGTON HAS DECIDED THAT THE SETTING UP OF A "PIGMY" PALESTINIAN STATE IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA AND RECOGNITION OF A "TAMED" PLO ARE BASIC CONDITIONS FOR A SOLUTION.

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2. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, THESE TENDENCIES WERE CONFIRMED BY THE SAUNDERS DOCUMENT WHICH ALSO CONFIRMED THE END OF THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH AND REFLECTED WASHINGTON'S DECISION TO GO FOR A TOTAL SOLUTION, EITHER AT GENEVA OR AT THE UN.

3. ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT US OBJECTIVES ARE BOTH TO PROTECT US INTERESTS IN ARAB WORLD AND TO STRENGTHEN "ZIONIST ENEMY". NEW STRATEGY LED WASHINGTON TO SUPPORT PARTICIPATION OF PLO IN INTERNATIONAL DEBATES AND TO ENCOURAGE SYRIAN REGIME TO DRAG PLO LEADERSHIP BEHIND HER IN SETTLEMENT PATH. THIS ALSO EXPLAINS WHY WASHINGTON ASKED TEL AVIV TO PARTICIPATE IN UNSC DEBATE AFTER TEL AVIV HAD ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO BOYCOTT THESE SESSIONS.

4. COMMENT: WHILE ARTICLE IS COUCHED IN TRADITIONAL ANTI-AMERICAN AND ANTI-ZIONIST RHETORIC, FACT THAT GOI PUBLICLY ALLEGES THAT USG MIBELE EAST POLICY NO LONGER EXCLUSIVELY LINKED TO ISRAELI INTERESTS IS CONSIDERABLE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS GOI PROPAGANDA LINE. GOI STILL ATTEMPTING TO LEAVE DAYLIGHT BETWEEN ITS POLICIES AND POLICIES OF "SOME ARAB REGIMES WHO HAVE OPENED THEIR DOORS TO IMPERIALISM AND HAVE AGREED TO A RECONCILIATION WITH THE ZIONIST ENEMY", BUT AT SAME TIME GOI HAS REFRAINED FROM DIRECT ATTACK ON SADAT OR EGYPTIAN REGIME. NEW TREATMENT OF USG ROLE IN AREA MIGHT BE INTENDED AS EFFORT BY GOI TO LAY GROUNDWORK FOR IMPROVED USG-GOI RELATIONS, BUT YEARS OF BITTER ANTI-US PROPAGANDA WILL LIMIT RATE AT WHICH GOI CAN MOVE IN THAT DIRECTION. STILL, THE TRENDS SEEM TO BE FAVORABLE AND ONE IMMEDIATE PAYOFF SHOULD BE BETTER USINT ACCESS TO HIGHER LEVELS OF GOI. IN FACT, THIS ARTICLE, WHILE INACCURATE IN SOME MAJOR RESPECTS, MAY BE AT LEAST PARTIALLY THE RESULT OF MY RECENT APPROACHES TO FONMIN IN WHICH I CONVEYED TEST OF SAUNDERS DOCUMENT (WHICH GOI, INEXPLICABLY, DID NOT SEEM TO HAVE) AND ALSO ATTEMPTED TO PLACE DOCUMENT IN CONTEXT OF CURRENT USG POLICIES. (SEPTTEL).

WILEY

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